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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012**

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Local artists showcased  
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Helping students hit the ice  
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**Truck hits house**

Floor pushed out of house  
Page 12

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# INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 40 VOLUME 16

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■ **BRIDGES:** Open house

## Promoting the community centre

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Bridges Community Health Centre's health promoter said a lot of people in the community still aren't aware of the centre's existence and what it does.

Lori Kleinsmith hopes that changes during an open house today as part of Community Health Week, being held all week with 72 other community health centres across Canada taking part.

see **BRIDGES** | page A2



FOTOLIA

A report by researchers says poverty costs \$1.38 billion annually in Niagara alone.

■ **POVERTY:** High price tag

## Numbers are staggering

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — It's the true cost of poverty.

And though the price is high — \$1.38 billion annually in Niagara alone — local community advocates are hoping to use that number to induce change in the region.

The figure comes from a report released Wednesday by the Niagara Community Observatory, which credits the high price tag to lost productivity, health-care expenses and social support programs.

see **POVERTY** | page A2

**HometownRealEstateGuy.com**

**Michael Smith**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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## upfront

## ■ POVERTY

## True costs are staggering

FROM PAGE A1

Though Mark Carl comes face-to-face with the consequences of poverty on a daily basis, he was still taken aback by the figures presented in the report.

"The numbers are staggering," said the executive director of the Hope Centre.

"That's a lot of money and a lot of need."

He hopes the document

will be used to put emphasis on health care and education in Niagara with intentions of breaking the cycle of poverty that so many people face.

Having those hard numbers will allow the region to set goals and work toward reducing those figures, he said.

Carl praised the document for providing a "real sense of the magnitude of the problem" by providing comparables the

public can easily relate to and understand.

For instance, the \$277.7 million in health care poverty is costing Niagara annually could build 1,200 new houses.

"We can see where that money could be spent," he said.

Lori Kleinsmith believes the report will be an important tool in the fight against poverty moving forward.

The health promoter at Bridges' Community Health Centre in Port Colborne has seen similar reports released in other parts of Canada. She was pleased to see a document finally come out of the region that addresses the dire issue in such a way.

Kleinsmith said that while it is not the job of researchers to advocate for change, they have, through the report, pro-

vided lobbyists with an argument to back further financial support for poverty efforts in the region.

"Our job (as community advocates) is to push this argument forward, to get it on the public's radar, to have those difficult conversations," she said.

"Our job is to hold the government to task."

It's by joining forces and

presenting a united front that Katherine Chislett believes will bring change to Niagara.

"When you have good, hard data, and the academic community, people on the front lines and the regional government all have the same message — that's powerful," said the region's commissioner of community services.

"That's a significant way of moving forward."

## ■ BRIDGES

## Community Centre open to the public

FROM PAGE A1

The idea behind the week is for the centres to share what they do in health and health care in the community and to raise awareness and Kleinsmith said resolutions to support the week were sent to councils in Wainfleet and Port Colborne.

"The theme this year is In Our Community, With Our Community. Locally, we'll have a guest speaker on

Monday to give a presentation to our partners from the regional community health centres."

Kleinsmith said the guest speaker is Dr. Dennis Raphael, professor of health policy and management at York University, who will speak on Public Policy and Social Inequality in Canada: Its Impact on the Health of Canadians. Raphael is a well-known researcher and author

and some of his most recent publications have focused on the health effects of income inequality and poverty, the quality of life of communities and individuals, and the impact of government decisions on Canadians' health and well-being.

"It's really geared toward folks in social services, health and education ... we have a full house for it."

Kleinsmith said an open

house will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Bridges, 177 King St., and the public is invited to come and tour the facility, which has been open for a year now.

"It should be fun. We'll have different tables set up showing our programs and services, and some of our community partners will be here. People will be able to find out more information on

how to access our programs."

Some of the programs run at Bridges include chronic illness, healthy eating and nutrition, healthy mind and body, and support and social drop-in groups. Each of those areas have various workshops and programs for people.

In addition to telling people about what the centre has to offer, dieticians from Bridges will have healthy

and "tasty" snack choices for those visiting and there will be draws as well.

Kleinsmith said client testimonials will be shown during the open house, as well.

"We did filming last week. There are some really good stories from clients who have benefited from Bridges and they talk about the positive impact on their health and lives."

## ■ PUBLIC SAFETY

## Police go back to budget drawing board

GRANT LAFLECHE  
QMI Agency Niagara

St. Catharines — The first crack at the 2013 Niagara Regional Police budget didn't make it beyond its initial presentation to the city's civilian oversight body.

Deputy Chief Joe Matthews said the nearly \$128-million proposed budget, a 2.57% increase over 2012, was rejected by the police services board at a meeting last week.

"They sent it back to us and

requested a more realistic figure so that we can ensure we have the resources we need," he said.

Of particular concern, Matthews said, was a rise in overtime costs in 2012.

He said overtime was higher than expected this year for a few reasons. First, he said, complicated investigations, including some high-profile drug trafficking probes, put a heavy burden on the NRP budget. Also, retirements are making more

overtime necessary.

When the 2012 budget was drafted, the service asked the board to approve higher 20 more officers above its authorized strength, specifically to have staff available to cope with vacancies left by retiring police officers.

However, Matthews said, that number was cut in half during the budget process, leaving the NRP short-staffed when a wave of retirements hit.

So last week, the police

services board sent the budget back to the NRP for another look to ensure the service has the resources it needs to avoid another spike in overtime costs.

Matthews said the budget will be presented again at a board finance committee meeting in about two weeks.

Once a budget is accepted by the services board, it is then sent to Niagara regional council for final approval.



Niagara Regional Police say overtime was higher than expected this year.

File Photo

# portraits

## ■ CULTURE

# Arts Place Gallery opens doors

DAVE JOHNSON  
In Port News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE**—When Anne Audet-Giroux started working on the Welcome Wagon for The Residences at Hunters Pointe in Welland, she found a number of new residents who were artists.

Working together with some of those artists, they formed The Artists on the Pointe.

"We had seven artists working together for two years and we've added two new members," said Audet-Giroux.

The nine artists work together to support each other as artists and meet once a month between April and November to discuss

projects, share resources, locate interesting sites to community paint, and welcome new members.

Working together, she said, helps keep the artists painting, try new things and inspiring each other.

"It propels us. We all have different passions and styles ... it makes for a rich experience."

Audet-Giroux said their work is exhibited at The Residences, so homeowners and potential homeowners can see the work and varied themes of each of the artists.

Those nine artists can now be viewed outside of Welland, at Port Colborne's Arts Place Gallery.

"We're coming out of our

community to be in the space here ... it's a collective show," said Audet-Giroux.

There was an opening for the showing this past weekend at the gallery and the work by Audet-Giroux, Bob Amirault, Brigita Bianco, Harriette Dewey, Jack Hunchuk, Leslie Davies-Lily, Ralph Mercier, Karen Pipes and Kent Taylor, will be on display until Sunday, Oct. 28.

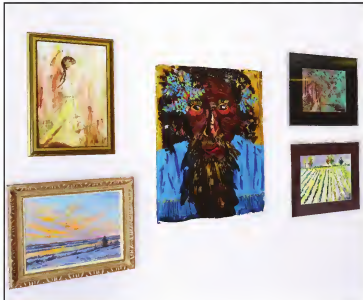
Audet-Giroux said all nine members are painters, working in acrylics, oils, and water colours.

"We're visual artists of two dimensions."

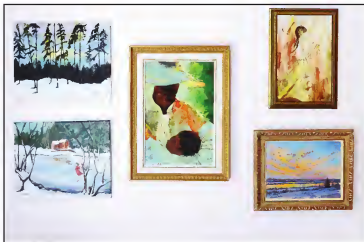
Arts Place Gallery is located at 714 King St., Port Colborne, and is open Thursday through Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo  
Kent Taylor, Bob Amirault and Anne Audet-Giroux, of The Artists on the Pointe, show off some of their work currently on display at Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo  
Some of the work by The Artists on the Pointe is shown on display at Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo  
Some of the work by The Artists on the Pointe is shown on display at Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne.

# INPORT NEWS

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## ourview

## Community health

**I**n Our Community, With Our Community.

That's the theme for Community Health Week, taking place all week all across Canada with 73 community health centres taking part.

Locally, Bridges Community Health Centre, based in Port Colborne and Fort Erie, had a guest speaker talk about Public Policy and Social Inequality in Canada: Its Impact on the Health of Canadians on Monday and today is holding an open house in the lakeside city.

We'd encourage everyone to head over to Bridges today, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and see what the centre is all about.

It has much to offer residents of both Port Colborne and Fort Erie, and many people still aren't aware of its existence.

Programs run at Bridges include dealing chronic illness, healthy eating and nutrition, healthy mind and body, and support and social drop-in groups. Each of those areas have various workshops and programs for people.

Tables will be set up so people can learn more about the various programs, program like Take Charge. Take Charge is a six-week program that is for people living with any type of chronic condition like arthritis, anxiety, diabetes and depression.

It helps teach basic self-management skills to help people in their daily lives through various strategies and tools.

Take Charge is a bridge, if you will, to the more in-depth programs that are offered at the centre.

Because Bridges has so many programs, it has people in various fields, like doctors, nurses, social workers and dietitians, to name a few.

A person can get whatever help is needed and be dealt with across a wide spectrum.

It's a unique place and one we're glad to have in the city, and one its clients are happy to have.

Some clients recently agreed to be filmed and will share their stories, and the positive impact Bridges has had on their lives.

Bridges is located at 177 King St.

## WEEKEND FUN

The second annual Downtown Port Colborne Harvest Festival takes place Saturday, Oct. 6, beginning at noon. The event, presented by the Downtown Business Improvement Area board, will include a variety of family-friendly activities to celebrate the season.

There will be children's crafts, pony rides, face painting by Port Cares and Ontario Early Years, free photos by Meggie's Pharmacy with a fall backdrop provided by The Mill Greenhouse, TD Canada Trust's monster mural, and fire truck tours of Port Colborne's volunteer firefighters.

Downtown merchants will be hosting sidewalk sales to add to the event and will have themed scarecrows lining the downtown streets.

## ■ COLUMN: I've been thinking

**FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT**  
St Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

**D**r. Steve Tourloukis is a Hamilton dentist with two children in elementary school. He has asked the Wentworth District School Board to advise him in advance of any lessons that might contradict his Greek Orthodox beliefs on marriage, family and sexuality and to allow him to remove his children from class if he considers the lessons inappropriate. The board will not allow this, and so he is suing them.

I agree and disagree with Dr. Tourloukis. I agree that the board should accommodate his family's Greek Orthodox faith on marriage, family and sexuality. I do not agree that they should inform him in advance of lessons contrary to his faith, because that is simply not feasible in a large, busy school system. But I think that the board should include in its policy that Christian children whose parents request it should be allowed to withdraw from moral lessons on marriage, family and sexuality which contradict their faith.

A sun columnist recently wrote an angry editorial against such accommodation saying that education is not what to think but how to think. On that point I can agree to some extent, although obviously matters of reading and writing involve what to think about grammar and spelling. But yes, education is

ultimately about how to think.

I would ask the Ministry of Education and school boards if their lessons about marriage, family and sexuality are about what to think, and in fact they are about what to think. And so Dr. Tourloukis is in my opinion entirely justified in wanting his children to withdraw from such indoctrination that now goes on from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Jehovah's Witnesses were excused from opening exercises when I was in elementary school, and I see no reason why Christian parents should be denied such accommodation on important moral issues. If a board will not provide this accommodation, then I think that Board is usurping parental responsibility and using education for indoctrination purposes. Education as indoctrination is simply not education.

But some people will say that teaching compassion, empathy and non-judgmentalism is justifiable. I would agree if it were only that, but these words describe an agenda that regards Biblical morality as execrable. It is no coincidence that Premier Dalton McGuinty's promotion of Bill 13 included the "It Gets Better" video by Dan Savage, a Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender advocate in the United States.

Biblical morality is at core the two Great Commandments to love God totally and to love (care for) one's neighbor as oneself. It also includes the majority of the Ten Commandments, of which one is "Do not commit

adultery." This is not execrable, as Dan Savage repeatedly insists. This is basic morality. Lessons that trash this basic morality have no place in an inclusive school system, unless inclusive now means exclusion of anything and everything Biblical. If that is the case, then the right to withdraw from such anti-Christian indoctrination should be Ontario and Board policy.

Teaching compassion, empathy and non-judgmentalism is best done by example. The example of a Ministry of Education and a school board requiring children to learn lessons that contradict Christian and Jewish doctrines about marriage, family and sexuality is a perfect example of judgementalism, propaganda and intolerance.

It is important that Christians understand what Jesus meant by not judging (Matthew 7). He meant not condemning, and he gave the example of not condemning to death the woman caught in adultery (John 8:11). And he told her to go and sin no more. So there is a difference between punitive condemnation and discerning between right and wrong. Jesus saw adultery as wrong. But he wanted the sinner to turn from her sin and to live (see also Ezekiel 18).

I hope and pray that the Niagara District School Board will encourage teachers to deal with matters like marriage, family and sexuality with sensitivity, restraint and wisdom. And knowing some of the trustees, I have considerable confidence that they will.

## ■ COLUMN

## The ups and downs of capitalism

**S**o I'm looking at uber capitalist Mitt Romney thinking maybe he's on the right track after all.

Here's a guy who sells American jobs to foreign countries, keeps his money in Swiss banks, probably sent his laundry out to China to be cleaned and orders in pizza direct from Naples.

And I'm thinking — why not? Why not outsource — everything? Put a price tag on everything from body parts to forehead ads. Sell everything from our hearts and souls, from our brains to our big toes.

Thanks largely to the Internet,



**William J. Thomas**  
HUMOUR

everybody's a huckster these days and nothing is off the sales table.

A young mother from Bountiful, B.C. just sold her forehead to a casino as advertising space.

Karl Smith had "GoldenPalace.Com" tattooed across her forehead in large black letters for \$10,000. It ought

to be the first business contract ever to include the line: "Never let your hair down."

Miss Anorel Collins, a budding young model on the Big Breast Fetish circuit — not making that up — just sold 72 inches of advertising on her 40N breasts to a radio station in Malone, N.Y. for \$2,000. The radio station's call numbers are 96.5 which in inches sounds just about right. Wild Country Radio hasn't revealed the wording of their double feature ads yet. I'm guessing something like "You better stare. We paid \$1,000 each for these."

see **WILLIAM THOMAS** | page 5

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■ WILLIAM THOMAS

# Outsourcing to the highest bidder

FROM PAGE 4

Recently 23-year-old Tina Bezzec of New Zealand auctioned off a 2x3 cm space on one of her buttocks for a tattoo advertisement. A strip joint in Auckland outbid everybody to put their message on Tina's backside billboard with an offer of \$9,554.

Calendar Girls has not revealed the ad they will post on the Kew's bum but "There's More Where This Came From" might work.

Tina put only one of her buttocks up for auction on eBay — boy, I wonder if Pierre Omidyac, the creator of eBay saw this one coming — because two would be tacky.

In the dying days of capitalism, imploding from shameless corporate greed and mind-boggling corruption, it seems everybody is trying to get one last grab at the gold, even if it's in somebody else's teeth.

It used to be you could only sell your soul to the devil, but recently Lost N. from New Mexico put hers up for sale on

eBay for \$2,000.

Many people are telling her that she's going to burn in hell for eternity which tells me the devil really is involved in this deal.

Did you know that in Santa Anna, California they have a county jail where prisoners can upgrade to a cleaner and quieter cell for \$90 a night?

Honest? By upgrading your jail cell you get to spend a peaceful night in a building well-removed from the one where the noisy convicts are housed. Now isn't accepting a bribe for better treatment from a bank robber just a little bit ludicrous? Wouldn't this encourage the thief to rob even more banks once he's out to secure better upgrades when he lands back in?

The highway authorities of four major U.S. cities are now selling the right for single drivers to use the carpool lanes. For about \$10 a shot, you can now drive alone in these multi-passenger lanes, thereby getting to your destination faster and completely destroying the purpose behind

the carpool lanes.

In Washington, D.C., high-powered lobbyists ensure themselves of the best seat at congressional hearings by paying homeless people to stand in line for them overnight.

And yes, it probably has happened that the fat cats have lobbied on behalf of developers against low-rent housing for the homeless. In an amazing swap transaction, Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff traded private jets, golf junkies and VIP passes to sports events and concerts for the votes of one hundred members of Congress.

Before he went to jail, Abramoff bought himself a good chunk of American democracy.

There's an economics professor in China who is advocating that poor Americans sell their U.S. citizenships for \$50,000 to foreigners and then move to Mexico.

The American dream is not dead, it's going, going,

gone to a rich guy who hates paperwork.

It comes as no shock that some couples now pay a surrogate mother to carry their child for them, from conception to birth. But the Louisiana state representative who wants to pay poor women \$1,000 to have themselves sterilized?

Bringing children to eat their broccoli is quite common, but paying third-graders in the Dallas school system \$3 for every book they read?

As one of the lowest organ-donating countries in the world, Canada is contemplating paying people for their vital body parts. As

organs go, you can buy a kidney in Yemen for \$60,000 or a liver in China for \$21,900. The asking price for a lung in Europe is \$312,650.

Today as capitalism teeters on the brink of another collapse, it seems every encounter is a transaction and everything around us and inside has a price.



REUTERS

Capitalist. Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney

They used to say "You can't buy happiness." Soon you will be able to buy happiness.

It will come to you in virtual form and at viral quantities and PayPal will complete the transaction. And if for some reason you're not happy with your newfound happiness, you can always put it up for sale on eBay.

Maybe you could trade

happiness for a soul although I still think a liver should be worth more than a kidney.

Is anybody interesting in tattooing a "teaser ad" on my forehead with the "answer ad" on my bum? It's a two-fer! A steal at \$20,000.

For comments, ideas and copies of *The True Story of Wainfleet*, go to [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca)

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■ readers' views

### Book sale support appreciated

On behalf of the University Women's Club Book Sale, I would like to thank J. Everett for his support for our scholarships. (Letter to the Editor, The Tribune, Sept. 19)

We award eight local high school scholarships from the proceeds our annual sale which will be Saturday, Oct. 13 this year at the Welland Fairgrounds.

Donations of newer books, magazines, games, puzzles, CD's and DVD's are appreciated and can be dropped off at the Welland Fairgrounds, 1100 Niagara St N in Building B on Wednesday, Oct. 10 and Thursday, Oct. 11 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or please call 905-835-2291 for more information or pick-up.

**Beth Jeffery**  
Book Sale Convener,  
Port Colborne

## Facing the health care challenge

Was it realistic to believe that Niagara could get two new hospitals? What would make Niagara so privileged when there are areas in Ontario that cannot get one hospital?

Why would we the people of Welland and area assume the government would spend \$1 billion when there is a deficit of \$14 billion?

Now that this fiasco is nearing an end there is one positive aspect. Hopefully the restructuring of the Niagara Health System will be advantageous.

What do the citizens of this area do now that we have been kicked in the gut and knocked down?  
We pick ourselves up

we have. We do not allow services to be transferred

We unite to improve our hospital facilities. We do not accept that a hospital opened in 1960 is beyond restructuring.

We ask our doctors what needs improving, what is critical, what is secondary. Once an architect has

Once an architect has drawn a plan, then we attack the job in increments that are affordable on a yearly basis.

We improve our hospital  
bit by bit, we will not be  
defeated.

The citizens of this area have contributed and supported this hospital for 52

Their generous donations and fundraising will continue.

My fellow citizens this is not the end, this is the beginning of a critical challenge.

Tom Carter  
Belham

### Passage of an old friend

I was saddened to read of the passing of my old friend, Showboat Festival Theatre of Port Colborne.

Each summer I look forward to several urbane and entertaining evenings of live performances right here in our small lakeside town. The high quality and professionalism of these productions made each a joy to attend. I am sure that artistic director Thom Currie will continue to work his magic, and the actors that lived among us for a few months each year will continue to dazzle audiences, although sadly in other venues. May I extend heartfelt thanks to the many board members, volunteers and other contributors who gave of their time and talent to bring

us such enriching fare. Showboat Festival Theatre was a beacon of light to its many patrons, and will be sorely missed.

Roland Meise  
Port Colborne

## Urgent care location crucial

Re: Letters, Sept. 21  
edition

Why would anyone be concerned with Dave Augustyn's opinion of the proposed second hospital location?

The only reason Pelham residents would go there is if they got lost enroute to the St. Catharines facility.

Ron Kramer gave a nice geography lesson, but the reality is that Wainfleet is a large rural area with a small population and not a factor in the location of a new hospital.

If we choose to live in a rural location, this is one of the realities.

Niagara Falls has, by a substantial margin, the

second largest population in the region. It is also the hub of the tourist industry which is the biggest employer in the region.

Has anyone bothered to determine how many tourists use the facility in a year?

Of far more importance to the rest of us should be the location of urgent care facilities and will they be band-aid stations or useful

Of equal importance should be access to treatment once arriving at these facilities.

Currently, anyone needing to use emergencies would be well advised to bring at least lunch and maybe a bed, as six to eight-hour waits seem to be the norm.

A simple change such as including a clinic in emergency and directing those with simple things to it might be helpful.

**Bernie Cusack**  
Wainfleet

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■ **THEATRE:** Showboat ceased operations in city-owned facility

# Exploring Roselawn Centre's future

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**PORTR COLBORNE**— Though it seems Showboat Festival Theatre has taken its final bow, it may not mean the end of live theatre in the lakeside city.

Showboat's board of directors announced last week that it is ceasing operations, ending its summer theatre productions at Roselawn Centre due to economic conditions.

"I was distressed to hear Showboat Theatre has decided to close after 26 years," Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said during the last council meeting.

As the past chair and member of the board, Bodner expressed his gratitude to the many volunteers, businesses and community members who helped to keep the theatre afloat over the years.

It seems the news and its impact have yet to completely sink in among the community, he told council.

"(Showboat) brought a lot of money into the community over the years," he said, with theatregoers also visiting

local eateries and other businesses.

Though he's certain the board gave the decision great thought, Bodner said he's still hoping the closure can be reversed.

"I'm hoping somehow we haven't heard the last of them."

Mayor Vance Badawey also expressed his appreciation for those involved with Showboat over the years. Discussions are underway with staff, he said, to explore other opportunities for Roselawn Centre.

"Other opportunities may present themselves. There are other entities out there," he said.

"It's our intention to pursue other operators ... This is not something we're going to let go that easily."

A discussion needs to be had to determine the direction council would like to see Roselawn take in the future, said Stephen Thompson, the city's general manager and director of economic development, tourism and marketing. Once that direction is determined, options for the facility can be reviewed.



File photo

Now that Showboat Festival Theatre has ceased operations at Roselawn Centre, the city will explore other options for the centre's future use.



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## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

## LIBRARY DOWNLOADS

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Monday, October 15th at 6:30 p.m. a free demonstration of how to select, check out & download ebooks and audiobooks from the Library at your home computer, and transfer them to a portable device. Register in advance.

## KIDS' YOGA WITH NADIA

for children ages 4 to 12.  
Thursdays, October 11 to December 13, 4:00–5:00 p.m.  
Cost: 10-week session is \$40.00 or \$5.00 per class drop-in.  
Please bring a yoga mat, blanket or towel. To register, call Nadia Esposito at 905-329-9841.

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## KNITTING

Fall Session begins Tuesday evenings, Sept. 18th to Nov. 20th from 7:00–9:00 p.m. and Thursday afternoons Sept. 20th to Nov. 29th from 1:30–3:00 p.m. For more information on the Knitting Club schedule of classes or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Frenz at 905-835-5373.

## EARLY YEARS BOOKS

The Regional Chair Early Years Niagara Literary Award books are available for borrowing, or for reading in the Library. This activity is intended to draw attention to the value of reading with children in their early years. Families are encouraged to read the 5 short-listed finalists together before voting online at [www.earlyyearsniagara.org](http://www.earlyyearsniagara.org), or by paper ballot at public libraries, Ontario Early Years Centres, and regionally operated child care centres throughout Niagara. Voting is from September 10 to November 10, 2012.

## P.A. DAY CRAFTS WITH STACEY

Friday, November 16, at 3–4:30 p.m. Decorate a Christmas napkin for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$5.00 per child. Pre-register at the library.

## inPortbriefs

## HARVEST FUN

PORT COLBORNE — The second annual Downtown Port Colborne Harvest Festival takes place Saturday, Oct. 6 beginning at noon. The event, presented by the Downtown Business Improvement Area board, will include a variety of family friendly activities to celebrate the season.

There will be children's crafts, pony rides, face painting by Port Cares and Ontario Early Years, free photos by Boggio's Photography with a fall backdrop provided by The Mill Greenhouse.

TD Canada Trust's monster mural, and a live band courtesy of Port Colborne's volunteer firefighters.

The event will also feature the magic of Port Colborne entertainer Joe Crawford, free cider, live music provided by The Music Depot and toonie pancakes at the Market Cafe. Downtown merchants will be hosting sidewalk sales to add to the event and will have themed scarecrows lining the downtown streets.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/DowntownPortColborne](http://www.facebook.com/DowntownPortColborne).

## NEW NAME

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne plant, which manufactures corn-based products, announced that it will now be known as Ingredion Canada Inc.

"This name change marks a key milestone in our evolution," Jack Fortnum, executive vice-president and president of Ingredion North America, said in a press release.

"Our new name, Ingredion, better reflects our global presence and focus on ingredient solutions," he said.

Though the company's name has changed, its commitment to Port Colborne has not, said Port Colborne plant manager Lee Whitley.

"We are proud to be a part of the Port Colborne community and will continue to be a responsible corporate citizen and community partner."

## CHANGING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

PORT COLBORNE — Visitors staying in the city will have an easier time

navigating the community. Vance Badawey unveiled a network of 48 new tourism directional signs at Humberstone Hall on Monday.

The signs, designed by city and Niagara Region staff were part of a three-year project to help guide tourists to important destinations in the community including the library, city hall and H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park as well as build awareness of what Port Colborne has to offer, said Badawey.

The signs were made possible through grants provided by the Ontario Ministry of Training, the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Small Capital Project program, and the South Niagara Community Futures Development Corp's Community Adjustment Fund.

Badawey said the project will help to keep visitors in Port Colborne for longer periods of time by making it easier for them to locate attractions.

## PARKING METERS REMOVED

Port Colborne is putting the brakes on paid parking in the downtown core. During Monday's council meeting, paid parking was scrapped on a one-year trial basis at the request of the downtown business improvement area board. A maximum two-hour free parking restriction will be put in place.

Passed without discussion from council, the project includes a 0.2% increase to the tax levy in 2013 to cover loss of parking meter revenue, removal of meter heads and installation of signage indicating new parking restrictions.

Free parking is expected to be implemented "in a week or so" as soon as the new signage is in place, Dan Aquilina, Port Colborne's director of planning and development, said.

The BIA has committed \$1,000 for removal of meter heads and installation of signage, projected to cost \$12,000, as well as \$5,000 in in-kind contributions for market research and promotion of the project.

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## TERRY FOX RUN

SUPPLIED PHOTO  
Students from Port Colborne High School raised several hundred dollars during a Terry Fox walk on Sept. 27.

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## ■ HEALTH

# Wealth tied to health

VICTORIA GRAY  
In Port News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — With poverty comes a greater risk of being sick.

That's according to Dr. Dennis Raphael, a professor of health policy and management at York University, who visited Bridges Community Health Centre on Monday to kick off the first nationwide Health Week.

There he spoke about social inequality and relative poverty in Canada and how it affects health.

He said it's a fact that poor people get sick more often and die younger than wealthy people.

"There is a direct correlation between income and health," he said.

Raphael argued that if the government spent more money on social assistance

programs or taxed wealthy people more aggressively levels of social inequalities would shrink.

"The money is there. Our economy is more successful than Sweden, for example, and their levels of poverty are much lower," he said.

In order to reduce poverty and increase good health in the country the poor need Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program benefits increased and the middle class and working poor need raises or improved education and job training opportunities.

Raphael said the best way to make those things happen is to lobby the government and start a much needed conversation about poverty and health.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @VixeyG



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Dennis Raphael, a professor of health policy and management at York University, visited Bridges Community Health Centre to talk about social inequality and how it affects health.

## POVERTY

- Relative Poverty: When a family doesn't have the income to buy things considered "normal," such as buy winter boots
- 26% more people have used food banks since 2008
- 0.2% of Canada's GDP is spent on child care and education before elementary school services
- 1% of Canada's GDP is spent on family benefits, such as tax breaks.
- Canadian families have 40% less assets in 2012 than they did in 1986.
- Canadian families have 33% less wealth in 2012 than they did in 1986.

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## ■ SKATES FOR KIDS: City supports program

# Helping students hit the ice

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There was nothing icy about councillors opening their own wallets last week to support Skates for Kids.

Through the popular program, gently used skates and new helmets are donated to Niagara elementary schools to help develop school-wide skating programs.

A report was before council asking for approval of an ice time request for Oct. 2 to allow students from St. Therese Catholic Elementary School — one of this year's program beneficiaries — to hit the ice at Westside Arena.

Al to inc luded in the report was a recommendation that city staff work with PenFinancial Credit Union, the program's facilitator, to find sponsorship for the \$100 in ice rental fees the two-hour event would incur.

Rather than ask staff to help find sponsorship for the ice costs, Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele asked councillors to each fork over \$10 for the cause.

He also asked that Mayor Vance Hadaway donate \$20 to see youngsters strap on their blades and enjoy a Canadian rite of passage.

Council was in full support of Steele's recommendation, with some councillors even pulling out money before the motion was passed unanimously.



## SCHOOLS BENEFITTING FROM THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM

- St. Therese Catholic Elementary School in Port Colborne
- St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Wainfleet
- Crystal Beach Public School in Crystal Beach
- Prince of Wales Public School in Thorold



■ **PORT COLBORNE:** Thursday crash damages home

# Truck slams into house

DAVE JOHNSON  
inPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Marie Parks and her husband were out of their Port Colborne house last Thursday night when a transport truck crossed their front lawn and plowed into the front room where they normally sit at night.

"Someone was watching over me," she said, as firefighters, police, paramedics and neighbours milled around the scene at Main St. W. and Steele St. in Port Colborne just before 11 p.m.

Parks and her husband had gone to see a neighbour's truck shortly before the crash. She watched the transport smash into her house, where

she has lived for the past 40 years.

Sgt. Stephen Dever said police, Niagara EMS paramedics and Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighters were called to the scene at 8:45 p.m. for the report of a transport truck into a house at the busy intersection.

Main St. West is part of Hwy. 3 and transport trucks run down the street throughout the day and night. Steele Street is a busy north-south street in the city.

Dever said when emergency services arrived, the cab of the transport truck was wedged into the front porch of the home.

see CRASH | page 12



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A large tow truck was needed to remove a transport truck cab from the front of 482 Main St. W. in Port Colborne early Friday morning. The truck slammed into the home Thursday night, knocking a gaping hole in a front room wall.

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## ■ CRASH

# Floor pushed out of house

FROM PAGE 11

Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright said the truck hit so hard, "it literally pushed the floor out of the back of the house."

While he did not go into the home, Dever was told the damage inside was extensive and said the homeowners would not be staying there.

Cartwright said the back wall was also pushed out of the house and its floor supports and foundation were damaged. Fire prevention officer Mike Bendia said despite the truck slamming into the home and striking the front porch, the living room window was not cracked or smashed by the force of the impact.

"City (of Port Colborne) staff were going to secure the home...," Dever said.

A city engineer was called in to assess the home to see

if it was structurally sound enough for the truck, hauling a trailer full of asphalt, to be removed. Enbridge Gas and Canadian Niagara Power were called in to shut services off in the home.

Once it was determined the truck could safely be removed, two large tow trucks from Metro Towing worked in tandem to remove the trailer from the truck and then remove the truck from the home. It took nearly two-and-a-half hours to remove both.

Dever said the transport was headed westbound on Main St., while a van was headed southbound on Steele St. at the time of the collision. He said the investigation was still underway, but earlier in the evening police spokesman Const.

Derek Watson said the transport swerved to avoid an accident with the van. But it struck the van and

ended up hitting the home, after driving between two poles close together on the south side of the road.

"The guy in the (transport) actually did a good job of missing" the other vehicle, Cartwright said. "He only hit the front of the van."

Dever said the transport driver, a male, and the van driver, a woman, were both taken to Welland hospital with minor injuries.

Once the truck was removed from the home, Main St. West, which had been closed to traffic, was going to be re-opened, Dever said. The road was re-opened after 3 a.m. on Friday.

The collision is still under investigation and Dever asked any witnesses to contact police at 905-735-7811 ext. 3200.

with files from QMI AGENCY



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A daytime view of 482 Main St. West in Port Colborne shows the damage caused when a transport truck slammed into the home late Thursday night.

## In The NEWS

I opened Monica's of Welland in May of 2010 and in the fall of that year began to offer mastectomy fitting services. In June of 2011, I purchased a business in Port Colborne called 270° West – a casual ladies wear store. It's been a tremendous couple of years of growth and learning for both myself and the stores. I am blessed to have such a fulfilling and fun job and am surrounded by many wonderful people that help to make that happen every day. And what's more, we all feel a passion to give back in whatever way we can.

So, with the help of my staff, we put on a semi-annual fundraising event and all of the proceeds are donated to the Walker Family Cancer Centre. The event is called Because You Care and is a fashion show and luncheon that features fashions from both stores. All of our models are customers of the stores and in some cases, breast cancer survivors themselves. "We're very excited about this event and the potential it offers to raising funds for local cancer treatment. So many of the customers of Monica's of Welland didn't have this option in the past, but are still really pleased to see that cancer treatment options will soon be available a little closer to home."

The next show is on Sunday October 21st at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club. Tickets are \$30.00 each, include a delicious served lunch, chances to win door prizes and of course, fun with friends and family. The tickets can be purchased at either of the stores.

## Because You Care Fall Fashion Show & Luncheon Sparrow Lakes Golf Club, 105 South Pelham Road Welland Sunday October 21, 2012 - 12:30pm

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■ **FOUR-WAY STOP:** Proposal shot down

# Lights not needed at intersection

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Council has not given the green light to Steele and Elgin Sts.

The intersection and its need for traffic signals was up for discussion recently as councillors were presented with the findings of a traffic impact study.

The city commissioned a peer review of the study after it was brought forward by the developer of the area's proposed Rosemount Estates subdivision.

Ieff Suggett, of Associated Engineering, outlined the review's findings for council on Monday.

The intersection was

assessed to determine how well it operates currently and whether any revisions by way of traffic signals, a four-way stop or pedestrian signal, were necessary to increase safety.

As is, the intersection operates effectively, Suggett said, with pedestrians having little difficulty crossing Steele and cars experiencing "little delay" turning from Elgin.

There have been 13 collisions at the intersection

over the past 10 years, which is below projected numbers, he added.

It was determined, Suggett said, traffic volumes do not warrant a four-way stop nor traffic signals.

Traffic volumes on Elgin are beginning to approach the amount warranting a signal, "but they're not there yet," he said. A 20% increase in traffic is still needed before a signal should be installed, he added.

Suggett did go on to say, however, that if the proposed Rosemount Estates development does move forward, traffic projections indicate a signal will be needed. The city can negotiate with the developer

of the subdivision to have the cost of intersection improvements included if the development moves forward.

Suggett estimated it would cost about \$370,000 to signalize the intersection.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny wanted to see the traffic light, or at the very least a four-way stop, put in sooner than later at the intersection.

The area has many senior residents, she said, who have indicated improvements are needed at the intersection.

Kenny put forward a recommendation to see a four-way stop put in at the intersection but it was defeated.



Kenny



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■ **HOSPITAL:** Wainfleet may form committee

# On the same page regarding location recommendation

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — The township will send a letter to pro-

vincial health minister Deb Matthews voicing its concerns over the recent report released by Dr. Kevin Smith, the Niagara Health System's

superior.

Mayor April Jeffs said there wasn't much discussion about the report, which recommended a new south Niagara

hospital be built in Niagara Falls, in the area of the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd.

The proposed location of the new hospital would be a 41

minute drive from township offices off of Hwy. 3 and nearly an hour from places near the Haldimand County border and along the lakeshore.

Smith's report also called for all existing hospitals to be closed in south Niagara and for two new urgent care centres to be built, but did not give any location for those centres.

The report has met with much criticism in south Niagara, not only with local mayors and councils, but residents as well.

Jeffs said though council didn't talk about the report too much, she believes it may be time to form a public committee in the township and get opinions and comments from residents about the proposals.

"We'll also talk with Welland council," the mayor said.

Last week, Welland's health care committee passed a motion to initiate a petition, to be sent to the province, in



Jeffs



Campion

the hope of preserving hospital services. That motion was passed at a special Welland council meeting.

Jeffs spoke with Welland Coun. Frank Campion about the petition and she said it may be brought up at the next Wainfleet meeting.

She would gladly spread that petition around the township, she said.

"I think we're on the same page as Welland and Port Colborne," she said, adding she was planning to speak with Port Colborne's mayor, Vance Badway.



JULIE JOCSAK (QMI Agency Niagara)

Dr. Kevin Smith's recommendation for a new hospital has been met with criticism in south Niagara.



## Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services

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■ COLUMN: Art of the matter

# Figuring out what people want

In arts, something always feels like it's on its way out.

For a few years in Toronto, musicians were lamenting the end of jazz, as venues like the Montreal Bistro and Top of the Senator flipped the sound system switch for the last time.

And now in the big smoke, there's been talk of the death of — or at least struggle to breathe life into — the classical arts. Opera and ballet companies are in survival mode, pitching to younger audiences, presenting less avant garde fare.

The problem is often blamed on the economy.

People are still struggling in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008, changing their priorities and worried about what's to come. Here in Niagara, arts have succumbed to poor economics. Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne announced last week it's shutting down operations after "several years weathering the economic storm."

The Niagara Symphony is \$250,000 in debt and in July, was

offered a reprieve by city council. St. Catharines council decided to extend a \$60,000 loan guarantee into next year.

And then there's Lyndesfame Theatre Projects, the professional theatre company that packed up and left St. Catharines for Niagara Falls in the hopes of drawing larger audiences and capturing the tourist crowd.

Even bars with live music in Niagara recently cut down their roster of bands performing.

For all the good things happening in the Niagara artistic community, survival is still a daily concern. All this, despite the millions of dollars infused into the city and by the city for the Performing Arts Centre and Culture Capitals of Canada Program.

OK sure, the economy is still in a precarious position and Niagara has never fully (or even nearly) recovered.

As Dylan says, The Times They Are a Changin'. And I'm not entirely convinced the arts struggle is for wholly economic reasons.

Full disclosure, I've never been to a Niagara Symphony performance nor a Showboat Festival Theatre play. So this isn't a judgement about quality.

Yes, the economy may have shifted our financial priorities and made us a little more particular about where we drop 50 bucks. That's where I think it has affected the arts. Not necessarily



## ART of the matter

Reporter Angela Scappatura  
on everything art

that we don't have money to spend (although there is less), it's just that the arts consumers spend it on things they really want. With a guaranteed payback.

And with every day that passes, so too does our selection. Especially in St. Catharines with its countless theatre companies, music venues and galleries. Let's not forget about options offered by movie theatres, the Internet and surround-sound home entertainment systems with 1,000 channels and limitless choice.

How does a theatre company, or symphony (if one does believe the rumours of the slow demise of the classical arts), compete?

Some manage. And it's certainly possible.

People are venturing out — just look at the growing list of sold-out shows at Brock's Sean O'Sullivan Theatre for proof — but on their terms.

Many of the jazz clubs in Toronto died before the economy hit a boulder. And it was because there wasn't enough people wanting to pay \$20 plus dinner and drinks to hear a jazz band. Plain and simple.

Tastes and options changed. And entertainment consumers took their cash elsewhere.

The challenge is, figuring out what people want. Instead of what's artistic and ground-breaking. (My apologies to the artists bagging their fists at the mention of commodifying their art.)

see **ART OF THE MATTER** | page 16

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## ■ ART OF THE MATTER

# Asking audiences what they want

FROM PAGE 15

I'm not saying there isn't a place for it. In my view there is nothing more boring than a homogenized art community repeating the same old thing. And yes there will always be the group that thirsts for the avant-garde,

but their pockets aren't deep enough to keep whole companies going.

Right now, there still seems to be this disconnect between what arts are being presented and what people want to make the effort to see and spend their money on.

The Niagara Symphony

recently named Candice Turner-Smith as its new managing director. She has a few priorities, but one to note, is the desire to connect with audiences. Instead of guessing what they want, she's asking what they want. And while a symphony is largely seen as a classical

art, Turner-Smith is quick to note there are pop and contemporary features injected into the schedule. Yes, the economy isn't great. But if the entertainment is what art consumers want, they'll spend the money. Drastic changes,

revamping of artistic mandates and talking to potential audiences may not be the most popular idea to offer struggling arts groups. But it seems, with all the other distractions and choices, that might be the only way to pull people out of their living rooms.

*Angela Scappatura is an award-winning Canadian singer, musician and songwriter. She's performed at Toronto's iconic Massey Hall and spent the past decade playing in Canada and overseas. Her original music has been broadcast on national and international radio.*



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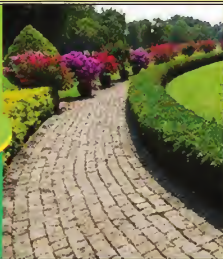
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■ **PLANNING:** Modifications made in Wainfleet

# Ostryhon Corners included in official plan

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

out of Wainfleet's hamlet areas will be included in the township's official plan.

Township planner Grant Munday said any future develop-

ment in areas at Ostryhon Corners and Wellandport can be dealt with at the local level if any proposals to use land there come forward.

During his presentation on the modified official plan this week, Munday said the Wellandport hamlet area was approved by the previ-

ous council after being recommended by the previous planner.

"We need to establish more lands in hamlets to accom-

modate growth inside, rather than outside of them," said Munday.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

WAINFLEET — Two areas Niagara Region wanted left



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■ SCAM: Several financial institutions hit

# Debit cards skimmed in Port Colborne

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — All it takes is a simple swipe.

And with that, one fell swoop, valuable financial information has been transferred into the hands of criminals.

QMI Agency Niagara recently received reports from customers at several financial institutions in Port Colborne who had their cards compromised and money fraudulently removed from their accounts.

While Niagarans have fallen victim to debit card skimming, the region is certainly not alone in dealing with this worldwide problem, said Niagara Regional Police Det. Sgt. Paul Spiridi of the central fraud unit.

Card skimming continues to be an issue both locally, nationally and internationally. Though cases have

decreased since the latest chip technology was introduced, skimming continues to evolve, Spiridi said.

Before cards were introduced, information swiped from a card's magnetic strip could be used just about anywhere.

But now with the small but mighty security measure in place, that skimming operation can only be used in areas of the world where chip technology is not utilized, he said, citing countries such as India or Malaysia as examples.

Financial institutions are frequently introducing new security measures in an effort to stop card skimming from occurring, Spiridi said. But as fast as they work, criminals work just as fast to find new ways to steal that valuable information.

"Every time there's a new form of security, (criminals) find a new way to compromise cards," he said.

Spiridi explained that those involved in card skimming are often well-trained individuals immersed in large-scale organized crime rings.

When banks learn cards have been compromised, they launch their own investigation in an effort to determine where skimming occurred and when.

They then inform all customers whose cards may have been compromised to visit their nearest branch to acquire a new card as a precaution.

Once information is skimmed it could be used the same day, the next week, or

even the next month, Spiridi said, stressing the importance of following the bank's instructions even if money has not been removed from your account.

By law, financial institu-

tions must reimburse customers who have fallen victim to skimming and had unauthorized withdrawals made from their account, he added.

If suspicious account activity is noticed, people are encouraged to first contact their bank before notifying police as an investigation may already be underway, Spiridi said. Banks, he added, can tell when withdrawals were made due to skimming.



## BANK NOTES

- Change your pin number regularly.
- Conceal your pin with your hand when using your card.
- Closely monitor your bank account and report any suspicious or unaccounted for charges/withdrawals to your financial institution.

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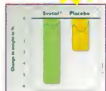
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